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# Bangalore Mirror ON SATURDAY

TEMP Max 28 | Min 22 | Humidity 85% Showers and thunderstorm Sensex 82,330 | Nifty 25,019 | Gold 92,329 | Silver 95,222 | Dollar 85.61 | Euro 95.27 | GBP 113.50

**Up to March, four skimming-related incidents have been reported, marking a sharp rise from zero such cases last year; add to this the eight ATM fraud cases and one can understand the need for more effective security mechanisms**

# WITHDRAWAL SYMPTOMS

## Real-time response remains sketchy despite electronic surveillance

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

A recent ATM fraud incident has once again put the spotlight on the limitations of electronic surveillance in urban banking infrastructure. Despite previous mandates and investments in security systems, a case registered at the Tilak Nagar Police Station reveals how systemic lapses continue to leave customers vulnerable.

According to the complaint registered by the victim, she attempted to withdraw ₹10,000 from an ATM located on the ground floor of a commercial building on April 24. Although the transaction showed successful debit, the customer did not receive any cash. Upon raising a complaint through the bank's internal dispute resolution portal, the grievance was initially rejected

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10 »

## OFF THE MARK

Negligence in SSLC evaluation causes distress among students and parents

PAGE 2

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## THINGS TO DO

### 01 Grand spectacle

Academy of Music and Nrithya Rangoli Festival is presenting Rama Katha Vismaya, a broadway style grand spectacle that brings together 60 talented artists and cutting-edge techniques to create an immersive experience unlike any other. **Where: Chowdiah Memorial Hall, Malleshwaram; When: May 17 and 18, 6.30 pm**

### 02 Legal realm

As the political momentum around the Uniform Civil Code gathers pace once again, with the recent Uttarakhand legislation in the news, BIC is organising a session revisiting the debate from a constitutional, feminist, and social justice lens. **Where: Bangalore International Centre, Domlur; When: May 21, 6.30 pm**

### 03 Enchanting evening

Ertkhoj is organising an enchanting evening of classical music with the soulful sounds of sitar and tabla. **Where: Artkhoj, JP Nagar; When: May 17, 6.30 pm**

### 04 Emotional odyssey

Mashaal Theatre Group is presenting 'Darinda', a psychological drama that explores the intricate connections between violence, emotional wounds, and the process of rehabilitation. **Where: Jagriti Theatre, Whitefield; When: May 17, 3.30 pm and 7.30 pm**

### 05 Book bonanza

LOCKTHEBOX, a book fest is being organised, presenting thousands of books– new and pre-loved, bestselling and hidden gems. **Where: Garuda Mall, Ashok Nagar; When: May 8 to 18, 11 am**

# Negligence in SSLC exam evaluation sparks outrage

## Oversight in evaluation process impacts the future of millions of students, say education experts, questioning how such lapses could occur despite supervision

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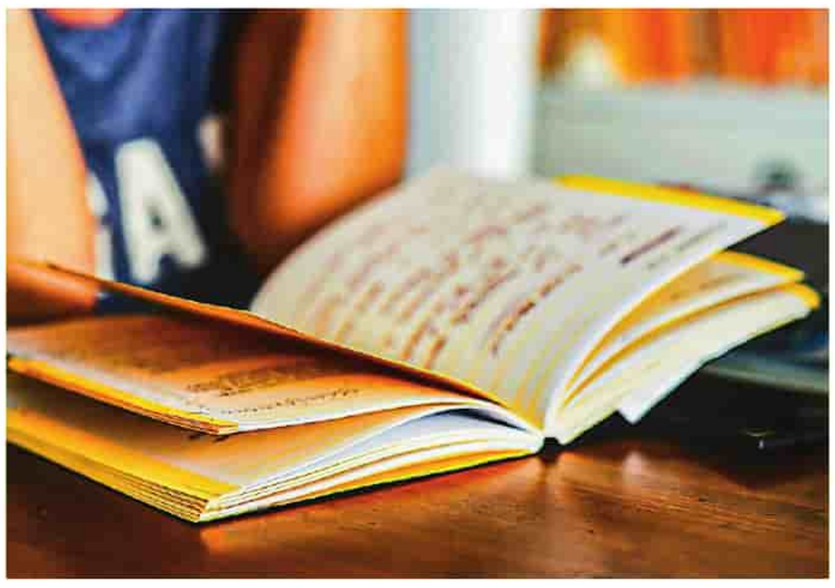
It has come to light that some teachers have conducted the SSLC (Secondary School Leaving Certificate) exam evaluation with extreme negligence and irresponsibility. This has led to some students failing unfairly and many others suffering mental anguish. The SSLC exam is a crucial milestone for students who work hard throughout the year to prepare. However, due to careless evaluation by many teachers, hundreds of students have received incorrect results. This has sparked anger amongst students and parents, who blame both the evaluators and the Karnataka School Examination and Assessment Board (SSLC Board).



### Errors exposed in scanned copies

After the SSLC results were announced, Geetha Chandrakant, a student of Government High School, Kalaburagi, submitted a scanned copy of her Hindi answer sheet showing she scored only 13 marks. However, her actual score should have been 23, but due to errors in totalling, she was wrongly marked. Similarly, she was given 45 marks instead of 75 in another evaluation.

### Lapses in evaluation process

After one teacher evaluates the answer scripts, the marks sheet is handed over to an Assistant Evaluator (one assistant for six teachers), who enters the marks online under the supervision of the Evaluation Center Officer. Education experts question how such errors occur despite these checks, stressing that evaluation negligence impacts the future of millions of students, not just one or two. Parents have demanded strict accountability for the oversight.

**After one teacher evaluates the answer scripts, the marks sheet is handed over to an Assistant Evaluator (one assistant for six teachers)**

### More cases of marking errors

Another student, Navya of GHS Kalaburagi, scored 57 marks in Mathematics but only 25 marks were entered online. When the scanned copy was checked, this discrepancy came to light. Another case involved a student who was awarded only 13 marks instead of the actual 75, due to uncounted marks.

### Registration number mix-up

Lakshmi, another student, was given only 15 marks in Social Science. She applied for a scanned copy of her answer sheet but was sent the answer script of another student due to a registration number mix-up. This forced her to reapply, causing further distress.

### Demand for action

Parents and students have expressed outrage over the careless SSLC evaluation process. They warned that incorrect marks severely affect students' confidence and mental health. They demanded immediate corrective measures and disciplinary action against the responsible evaluators.

# Police directed to treat public with courtesy

In a significant move aimed at safeguarding the dignity and rights of citizens, the Karnataka State Human Rights Commission (KSHRC) has issued a directive instructing police personnel across the state to treat members of the public with courtesy and respect when they visit police stations.

The directive, communicated through official channels to all Police Commissioners, Zonal Officers, and District Superintendents of Police, including KGF and Railways, emphasises the need for strict adherence to human rights norms during public interactions at police stations.

The KSHRC has explicitly directed that no inappropriate behaviour should be exhibited by police personnel that could amount to a violation of an individual's rights.

In compliance with this directive, a circular has been issued on behalf of the Director General and Inspector General of Police, urging all officers and staff to ensure that public dealings are marked by politeness and professional conduct.

This move is expected to foster greater trust and transparency between the police and the public, while aligning with the broader goals of upholding human dignity and constitutional values.

— BMB

# 'Freedom Bengaluru 10K Run' to debut on May 25

Freedom Oil and Kalki Sports are launching the Freedom Bengaluru 10K Run on Sunday, May 25, 2025, following the Dilli 10K Run held in December 2024. This event extends the running initiative to Bengaluru, inviting participants from different walks of life to come together for a fitness-focused gathering. With the theme 'Run Beyond Limits', the run aims to unite new runners, experienced participants, and corporate teams in an effort to promote health and a sense of shared purpose.

The event will begin at 6 am, at the parking lot of Sree Kanteerava Stadium. Race categories include the 10K Open Run and the 5K Fun Run. Apart from the races, there will be Zumba sessions, along with refreshments, distribution of finisher medals, t-shirts, goodie bags, e-certificates, and free access to race images.

**With the theme 'Run Beyond Limits', the run aims to unite new runners, experienced participants, and corporate teams in an effort to promote health**

Chetan Pimpalkhute, GM Marketing of Freedom Oil, stated that bringing the Freedom 10K Run to Bengaluru supports the company's view of wellness as a regular part of life. Through events like these, the brand seeks to encourage people to take part in fitness activities and adopt healthier routines. The Freedom Bengaluru 10K Run aligns with Freedom Oil's commitment to helping people make better lifestyle choices without giving up on enjoyment.

— BMB

# Boxing champion honoured for victory

The Karnataka Amateur Boxing Association (KABA) on Friday felicitated Vivan Manjunath for bagging a bronze medal at the 7th Youth Men's National Boxing Championship held in Noida. He was honoured for his achievement in the 80 kg to 85 kg category.

Speaking on the occasion, Ramanagara MLA Iqbal Hussain, who was the chief guest for the event, said that Manjunath has become a role model for sports persons in Karnataka. "I want Vivan Manjunath to win more and more medals in future. I wish him good luck. I want more athletes to participate in sports and win medals, thus bringing name and fame for Karnataka. I am ready to extend cooperation and assistance to sportspersons," he said. Thanking the KABA and MLA Iqbal Hussain for the felicitation, Vivan Manjunath noted that he was able to participate in the 7th Youth Men's National Boxing Championship with the help and cooperation of his parents, the KABA, and his boxing coach. "My aim is to win a gold medal in the Olympics. I want to thank all those responsible for my success in winning the bronze medal," he said.

KABA President Dr Manje Gowda highlighted that boxing is an old Olympic sport. "I want more boxers to represent Karnataka and win more medals in future," he said.

"Boxing provides both physical and psychological benefits. World Champion in Boxing, Mary Kom, is a role model for sports persons in the country. I want Vivan Manjunath to follow Mary Kom's footsteps," said KABA Secretary Sai Satish.

— Y Maheswara Reddy

# Tips for smart, eco-friendly home

If you are planning to renovate your haven or get a new house built, consider going green with eco-friendly material and interiors made with natural materials.

Here are the latest trends in home architecture as shared by Dikshu C Kukreja, Managing Director and Principal Architect, CP Kukreja Architects:

**Healthy homes:** Environment-friendly building materials are being used to make healthier residences, with lush green landscaped terraces or shaded balconies for climate control.

Many of these materials play an active role in lighting, ventilation, air-quality.

**Green interiors:** Plants are now considered living building material that can improve indoor oxygen levels and clean the air naturally, preventing many diseases.

Flowering plants are used to add to the shades and hues thereby alleviating the quality of interior design. Plants can also be used as natural bio-climatic controls

**Modular and smart interiors:** The modern architecture focuses on space economy in interior design through various tools. Sofa-cum-beds, vanity units that dissolve into walls, facilitate maximum use of space. Walls that dissolve to make rooms larger are another thing that people can opt for, considering the constraint of home sizes.

It is better to use ready-made furniture as opposed to getting it made. You can see the end product and immediately get what you see. Modular kitchens, cabinets and wardrobes are in trend for they make it easier to organise things.

**Smart intelligent homes:** The newest trend is automated homes that seamlessly integrate security systems, electrical appliances, refrigerators, air conditioners and televisions, centrally or remotely controlled from multiple devices.

With technology being an indispensable part of people's lives, smart homes also help you save on electricity bills. — Femina

CRIME FILES

# Foreign national held in drug bust

The Central Crime Branch (CCB) Narcotics Control Unit arrested an African national for allegedly peddling MDMA crystals in Bengaluru. The accused was targeting college students, IT-BT employees. The arrest took place following a raid in Achyuta Nagar under the jurisdiction of Soladevanahalli Police Station. Acting on a tip-off received on Wednesday, CCB officers registered a case under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act and conducted a raid, detaining one foreign national while another accomplice managed to flee.

During the operation, officials seized a total of 2.585 kg of MDMA crystals, comprising 1.485 kg of white crystals and 1.1 kg of brown crystals, along with a phone used in the operation, an electronic weighing machine, and a two-wheeler. The total estimated value of the seized items is  4 crore.

Preliminary investigation revealed that the accused had entered India on a business visa and had overstayed illegally.

## Gold theft from bank locker

Basaveshwara Nagar police have arrested two bank employees for allegedly stealing gold jewellery from a customer's locker and recovering 170 grams of gold ornaments valued at  16 lakh.

The complainant, a bank manager and resident of Byadarahalli, had availed of a locker facility at his branch, where he stored gold jewellery, cheque books, academic documents, and certificates. Upon checking the locker in December last year, he discovered that while the documents remained untouched, 200–250 grams of gold jewellery were missing. He lodged a complaint, suspecting the involvement of a colleague.

Following a detailed investigation, police detained one of the suspects. During interrogation, the suspect confessed to committing the theft with the help of a female colleague. The duo had allegedly used duplicate access to the bank locker keys, opened the locker discreetly, removed the jewellery, and relocked it to avoid detection. Further investigation revealed that the stolen jewellery had been sold at a jewellery store in Agrahara Dasarahalli.

## Three burglars nabbed

Basaveshwara Nagar police have arrested three individuals in connection with a burglary and recovered stolen valuables worth  35 lakh. The incident occurred at a residence near Sai Baba Temple. With the balcony door left open, thieves entered and stole gold jewellery from the wardrobe. The theft was discovered when a family member returned home and reported the missing valuables to the police.

Following the investigation, police detained a suspect near Kurubarahalli Circle. During interrogation, he confessed to the burglary and revealed the involvement of two accomplices. He also disclosed that a portion of the stolen jewellery had been pawned at a financial institution, while the remaining items were hidden at a construction site in Rajajinagar.

Based on this information, the police recovered a platinum chain, three pairs of gold earrings, a Raymond Weil watch valued at  1.5 lakh, 300 US dollars, sunglasses, a 32.83-gram gold chain, 350 grams of additional gold ornaments, and 286 grams of silver items.

## Carpenter on run after stabbing wife

A 47-year-old woman was allegedly murdered by her husband in the early hours of Thursday in Subbaiahnapalya, under the jurisdiction of Banaswadi police. The accused, identified as Ramesh, a carpenter by profession, is on the run after fatally stabbing his wife, Kalevani, with a chisel used in woodwork.

According to police, the couple had frequent arguments, with Ramesh reportedly harbouring suspicions about his wife's character. Around 4 am, an argument escalated, leading Ramesh to stab Kalevani in the chest with a carpenter's chisel.

Banaswadi police arrived at the scene after receiving information, conducted an investigation, and registered a case. A manhunt is underway to trace the accused.

# Greater Bengaluru Authority notified, but limits unchanged

## With elections long overdue, the government halts BBMP boundary expansion to focus on delimitation and timely conduct of civic polls under existing limits

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The newly notified Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) will not immediately lead to an expansion of the city's municipal boundaries. Government sources have confirmed that the inclusion of peripheral areas into the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) limits has been deferred. The primary reason is the urgency to hold BBMP elections, already delayed for several years.

Authorities say increasing the city's jurisdiction at this stage would complicate ward delimitation and reservation processes, potentially delaying polls further—a scenario the government is keen to avoid.

Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar announced that preparations for the Greater Bengaluru elections would begin in the next four months. He said delimitation and ward reservations would be prioritised and added that postponing elections would serve no purpose.

Bengaluru awaits elections as boundary expansion is paused

Bangalore Mirror
Curtains for BBMP, we are Greater Bengaluru now

BM had reported on May 16 about the nitty-gritty of Greater Bengaluru Authority

"The Governor has given assent to the Greater Bengaluru Bill. A meeting with all parties will be held to discuss the election timeline. Suggestions will be taken on the division of zones. Many MLAs have shared their views in the Assembly. A Cabinet sub-committee was formed, and 90% of its recommendations have been accepted. Elections will be held based on consensus. Inclusion of new areas will wait; for now, elections will be conducted under the existing structure," Shivakumar said.

The BBMP elections have been pending since October 2, 2020, when the corporators' term ended. A March 2020 notification proposed increasing wards from 198 to 250. A re-delimitation committee was formed on June 14, 2020. The BBMP Act, 2020, came into effect on January 11, 2021, followed by a notification fixing the number of wards at 243, later revised to 225 in September 2023.

To improve governance, the state appointed a retired chief secretary to examine the civic structure. On July 18, 2023, the expert panel led by B S Patil was reconstituted as the BBMP Reform Committee (Brand Bengaluru Committee). It submitted a draft of the Greater Bengaluru Bill on February 8, 2024.

> "Creating the GBA without redrawing boundaries right away is a pragmatic move — it ensures smoother transition and avoids more legal entanglements
>
> – Prof Arvind Narayan, Civic Governance Analyst

The bill, proposing a three-tier administration, was approved by the cabinet on July 22, 2024, and introduced in the Assembly the next day. After legislative review and amendments, it was passed by both Houses in March 2025. The Governor granted final assent on April 24, 2025. On May 15, 2025, BBMP officially made way for the Greater Bengaluru Authority, marking a major shift in civic governance.

# HC cancels illegal apartment society at Yelahanka Complex

## Builder directed to form association under Karnataka Apartment Ownership Act after unilateral registration challenged

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In a significant development highlighting the importance of transparency and due process in residential community matters, a group of residents from Ramky One North apartments, located in Avalahalli near Yelahanka, approached the Karnataka High Court to challenge the manner in which a cooperative society was registered for their housing complex.

According to the petitioners, a group of individuals proceeded with the registration of a cooperative society under the Karnataka Cooperative Societies Act, 1959 (KCS Act) without initiating a comprehensive discussion among the residents, obtaining the consent of the majority, or involving the builder—who is a crucial stakeholder in such processes. This unilateral move sparked serious concerns among many residents, who felt the process was non-inclusive, legally questionable, and failed to represent the collective will of the community.

> "This verdict reaffirms the importance of following due legal process and involving all stakeholders in community decisions
>
> – Resident of Ramky One North

In response, a group of affected residents filed a writ petition before the Karnataka High Court, challenging the legitimacy of the registration. Following several hearings, the High Court on May 2 delivered its verdict, setting aside the registration of the cooperative society. The Honourable Judge also directed the builder to adhere to the legally mandated procedures outlined in the Karnataka Apartment Ownership Act, 1972 (KAOA), which governs the formation of apartment associations.

"This verdict reaffirms the importance of adhering to proper legal procedures and ensuring that all stakeholders, especially the residents who form the backbone of any community, are meaningfully involved in decisions that affect them," said a resident of Ramky One North.

The High Court, while allowing the writ petition filed by five residents of the apartment complex, clearly stated that the registration of the cooperative society under the KCS Act is invalid. The court further directed the builder to comply with the requirements under the law and form an Association of Apartment Owners in accordance with the provisions of the KAOA.

Dhananjay Padmanabha, Convener of the Karnataka Home Buyers Forum, said, "The Honourable High Court has clarified in multiple cases that apartment associations must be registered under the Karnataka Apartment Ownership Act, 1972. However, despite these judgments, many similar petitions continue to be filed for the same issue. We urge the state government to release an official gazette and issue a government order explicitly stating that apartment associations must be registered under the KAO Act."

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### Pothole neglect

Millers Road

Potholes on the stretch from Millers Road to the Cantonment underbridge have been left unattended for 4–5 years. How much longer will it take for the BBMP to act?

### Crowded walkways

Nallurahalli

Nallurahalli Road lacks proper footpaths, and the presence of roadside food vendors further contributes to traffic congestion and pedestrian inconvenience. Footpaths or food paths?

### Waste zone

Kadirenahalli

Garbage has accumulated in front of a stadium on Outer Ring Road, Kadirenahalli — right beside a hospital and stretching up to a temple. Despite children playing nearby, repeated complaints have been ignored by authorities.

# Saree thief's 27-year hide-and-seek game over

## Man wanted for multiple thefts in Molakalmuru in 1997, hiding under false identity in B'luru, is apprehended after nearly three decades

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A saree thief who had been hiding in Bengaluru under an alias and working as a supervisor was finally caught. Police said that this man was part of a series of thefts in Molakalmuru town (known for manufacturing sarees) nearly 27 years ago and has finally fallen into the police net. Known for its exquisite silk sarees, Molakalmuru had witnessed a string of burglaries in 1997, with luxurious handwoven sarees being the prime target. The thief has now been identified and arrested after decades on the run.

The accused, Maruti (54), a resident of Tilak Layout in Molakalmuru, had not returned to his hometown for over two decades. In 1997, he was involved in multiple house and temple thefts across various neighbourhoods in the town. At the time, many weaver families wove expensive silk sarees within their homes and sold them in the market. Maruti, targeting such homes, would break in and steal the sarees, along with women's vanity bags and silver pooja items, according to police reports.

Surprisingly, police had no photograph of Maruti at the time, making it extremely difficult to trace him. Though three others involved in the same thefts were arrested earlier, Maruti managed to escape. However, the Molakalmuru police never gave up their search. After committing the thefts in Molakalmuru, Maruti fled to Ballari and then moved to Bengaluru, where he ceased criminal activity and began working as a construction labourer. Over the next 10 years, he gradually moved up to become a site supervisor.

Thief stole silk sarees, vanity bags, pooja items from weaver homes

**"Police had no photograph of suspect, making tracking difficult. After fleeing to Ballari and then Bengaluru, the accused quit crime and worked up to site supervisor**

It was a missed call from a woman in Madikeri that changed Maruti's life trajectory. The woman, who was differently abled, began talking to Maruti after the call, and the friendship eventually turned into love. He married Ashwini at a temple in Madikeri, changed his name to 'Manu', and started a new life as a tourist taxi driver, never revealing his criminal past to his wife.

Meanwhile, Molakalmuru police continued updating their Long Pending Register (LPR) records every three months as part of the legal process. During one such routine check, officers noted that one of the accused from the 1997 theft case was still at large. Interestingly, even Maruti's brothers in Molakalmuru were unaware of his whereabouts.

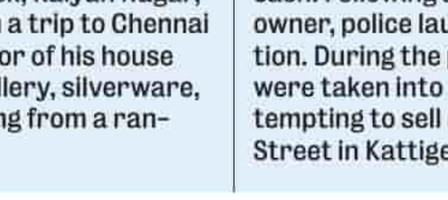
The breakthrough came six months ago when police received a phone call from Ballari, which hinted at Maruti's location. Under the guidance of CPI Vasant V Asode, the team launched a detailed investigation. They tracked down Maruti's wife through her Facebook ID and confirmed her identity using her photographs.

With the help of the Madikeri police, Maruti was finally apprehended and brought back to Molakalmuru. After months of pursuit, justice has caught up with him. No 1, b2 has been remanded to judicial custody.

# Walk, celebrate, donate: Bengaluru's big fitness event

Bengaluru, get ready for a day of fitness, fun, and purpose! On May 18, 2025, o9 Solutions, in collaboration with 93.5 RED FM, is hosting a city-wide Walkathon at St Joseph's Indian Institute, opposite Kanteerava Stadium. Open to all, the event invites participants to walk for health, joy, and a cause.

Step Forward, Give back! Walkathon is more than just a walk; it's a celebration of fitness, community, and togetherness. Whether you're a seasoned athlete or just looking for a fun morning out, you can choose from 10km, 5km, or 3km walk categories designed for all ages and fitness levels. The day will kick off with an energetic Zumba warm-up session, led by professional instructors from Fit Community, setting the tone for an unforgettable morning.




From fitness buffs to families, the Walkathon is designed for everyone. Participants will receive a t-shirt, finisher's medal, certificate, and a delicious breakfast post-walk and medical professionals, including doctors & physiotherapists, will be on-site to ensure safety.

The Walkathon will feature Olympian Anju Bobby George, former national champion Reeth Abraham, and Joint Commissioner of Traffic MN Anucheth, who will flag off the event.

Additionally, 10% of registration fee and Rs 500 per finisher will be donated to Make A Difference (MAD), supporting children in need.

Registrations are open on BookMyShow, Townscript, and District by Zomato.

Walk. Celebrate. Make a difference. Sign up now and join us on May 18 for an event you won't want to miss!

## Police arrest two, recover gold

The Banaswadi police have arrested two individuals in connection with a house burglary in Kalyan Nagar and recovered 117 grams of gold ornaments valued at 10 lakh. The arrests come following a complaint filed by a resident of 3rd Block, Kalyan Nagar, who returned from a trip to Chennai to find the front door of his house open and gold jewellery, silverware, and watches missing from a ransacked cupboard.

## Phones, laptop recovered after burglary

The Yelahanka police have arrested two individuals in connection with a nighttime burglary at a mobile service shop in Bagaluru. The accused reportedly broke into the shop and stole mobile phones, laptops, and cash. Following a complaint by the owner, police launched an investigation. During the probe, two suspects were taken into custody while attempting to sell mobile phones on PG Street in Kattigenahalli.

# Prisoner attacks inmates with tiles

A remand prisoner attacked two fellow inmates at Parappana Agrahara Central Prison using tiles ripped from a bathroom wall. A source said one of the injured prisoners suffered a serious head injury and has been admitted to Victoria Hospital for treatment. The other inmate is being treated at the prison hospital.

Based on a complaint filed by the prison's official, an FIR has been registered at the Parappana Agrahara Police Station against the accused inmate who has been lodged in prison on April 17 by Kumaraswamy Layout police, after being arrested for allegedly murdering his girlfriend's father at Timber Yard. The clash reportedly occurred on Wednesday afternoon during lunch hours when a quarrel broke out between the accused and another inmate. The accused allegedly pulled out a tile from a nearby bathroom and struck the victim on the head. When another inmate tried to intervene, he was also attacked with the same tile, sustaining injuries to his back. According to police, prison staff intervened, during which the accused is said to have struck himself on the head with the tile.

# Maharashtra duo arrested for theft

Yelahanka police have arrested two men from Maharashtra in connection with a house theft case, recovering 180 grams of gold bars valued at 16 lakh. The accused had broken into a residence in an apartment complex and fled with gold, silver items, and cash while the homeowner was away at work.

Following a complaint that 250 grams of gold ornaments had been stolen, police registered a case and traced the suspects to Surat City Central Jail in Gujarat, where they were being held for another crime. The duo was brought to Bengaluru for interrogation.

During questioning, the accused confessed to the burglary and revealed that they had melted the stolen gold ornaments into bars and stored them at their residence in Oshiwara, Maharashtra. Acting on this information, a police team recovered 15 gold bars weighing 175 grams and two gold rings weighing 5 grams from the location.

After the recovery, the accused were sent back to Surat City Central Jail.

# Bengaluru tunnel commute may cost ₹318 one-way soon

## Proposed 16.7-km twin tunnel project awaits nod; toll set at ₹19/km for users

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Commuters may have to pay ₹318 to use the proposed North-South twin tunnel corridor, if the estimated toll of ₹19 per kilometre is implemented. The corridor spans a total length of 16.745 km from Hebbal (Esteem Mall Junction) to Silk Board Junction via HSR Layout.

The ambitious underground twin tunnel project in Bengaluru, designed to ease congestion along the North-South axis, is inching closer to reality. A detailed 126-page proposal has been submitted by the Urban Development Department seeking state cabinet approval for its design, construction, operation, and maintenance.

According to the proposal, commuters using the entire stretch could be charged ₹318—making it one of the costliest intra-city commutes in the country. The toll rate of ₹19 per kilometre, recommended by a private consultant based on traffic projections, is being seen as steep by urban mobility experts.

The twin tunnel will run from Hebbal's Esteem Mall Junction to Silk Board Junction via HSR Layout, covering 16.745 km. It will feature three main carriageways along with two- or three-lane entry and exit ramps. The total cost of the corridor is estimated at ₹17,780.13 crore.

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has submitted a detailed project report (DPR), which incorporates suggestions and recommendations from an expert committee report dated May 5. The plan proposes implementation in two phases—Package 1 (North), stretching from Hebbal to Seshadri Road, is pegged at ₹8,814.78 crore, while Package 2 (South), from Seshadri Road to Silk Board, is estimated at ₹8,965.35 crore.

The project may be executed through the improved Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) model, or under a Hybrid Annuity Model if BOT proves unviable. Additionally, ₹800 crore is sought for land acquisition and ₹150 crore for relocation works. Tenders will be floated after updating cost estimates in line with the expert committee's recommendations.

Funding will be partly supported by Viability Gap Funding (VGF), which can cover up to 40% of the project cost excluding GST. Of this, BBMP will contribute 40% of the VGF share to the selected bidder.

If approved, the corridor is expected to be operational by the 2029–30 financial year. However, concerns over affordability remain.

"A flat toll of ₹19 per kilometre is already on the higher side for urban commuters. If revised annually, it could become one of the most expensive daily routes in India," a senior urban mobility expert warned.

BBMP seeks state cabinet approval for 17,780 crore twin tunnel corridor between Hebbal and Silk Board

**"A flat toll of ₹19 per kilometre is already on the higher side for urban commuters. If this rate is subject to annual revisions, as is typically the case with such projects making it one of the most expensive commutes in the country**

–Senior urban mobility expert

## SC backs B'luru ISKCON

The Supreme Court on Friday ruled that the ISKCON temple in Bengaluru belongs to the ISKCON Society Bangalore, registered under the Karnataka Societies Act, and not to the ISKCON Society Mumbai.

A bench of Justices Abhay S Oka and AG Masih set aside a 2011 Karnataka High Court ruling, which had declared the temple property at Hare Krishna Hills belonged to ISKCON Mumbai. The High Court had overturned a trial court's decision that recognized ISKCON Bangalore, registered in July 1978, as the absolute owner and restrained ISKCON Mumbai from interfering in its affairs.

ISKCON Bangalore had sought a declaration that ISKCON Mumbai had no authority over its office-bearers or property. Mumbai's contention was that the Bengaluru centre was not independent and that all properties vested with ISKCON Mumbai.

The Supreme Court's decision affirms ISKCON Bangalore's ownership and control of the temple, resolving a long-standing dispute between the two bodies. **–IANS**

## HC halts ED action

The Karnataka High Court on Thursday issued an interim directive restraining the Enforcement Directorate (ED) from taking coercive action against MLA Vinay Kulkarni, who was summoned in connection with a money laundering investigation involving Aishwarya Gowda. Justice Shivashankar Amarannavar allowed the ED to seek cancellation or modification of the order if needed.

The directive came despite objections from ED's counsel, Additional Solicitor General Arvind Kamath, who argued he was not given adequate opportunity to oppose Kulkarni's petition challenging the legality of a recent ED search and a May 2 summons.

The case concerns allegations that Gowda and her associates deceived investors by promising high returns on cash and gold, intimidating them by citing her political connections. The ED seized incriminating documents and 2.5 crore in cash during April searches and linked Kulkarni to financial dealings with Gowda. **–BMB**

# Less landfill waste, more sustainable homes

## Home composting can help reduce burden of wet waste that can generate methane which impacts climate change, and if done right requires minimal effort, says environmentalist

Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

As home composting gains momentum in Bengaluru, an increasing number of residents are showing keen interest in sustainable waste management. With environmentalists and Swachh Gruha volunteers actively raising awareness, the city is witnessing a shift towards reducing mixed waste sent to landfills and waste-to-energy plants. This growing movement is expected to drastically cut down waste disposal, fostering a cleaner urban environment.

The volunteers, who have been striving hard to promote home composting in Bengaluru, are happy with the positive response from the public. They believe that more residents would soon opt for home composting instead of throwing away the mixed or wet waste as garbage.

Vani Murthy, an environmentalist who has been practising home composting for many years, advised residents to partake in home composting rather than disposing of kitchen waste. "Swachh Gruha volunteers are available to guide and support those who want to do home composting from kitchen waste. Many videos on home composting are also available. It is easy to do, and it will reduce the burden on landfills," said Murthy.

Advising residents to practice home composting, Vasuki Iyengar, an environmentalist, said that it can help reduce the contribution to climate change. "It is easy to practice composting at home. Roof gardening requires compost. Generally, people complain about the lack of space at home to do composting, but one can find space at the balcony or near a window or even under the dining table. You have to use cocopeat or crushed dry leaves to make wet waste dry," said Iyengar.

Composting does not require a lot of dedicated time as one simply has to put the wet waste into a composter instead of the bin

Odette Katrak, co-founder of Beautiful Bharat, said that she has been composting for 9 years, embracing the joy of producing zero wet waste. She said that it is magical how discarded wet waste transforms into rich fertile manure through home composting. "What could rot and stink instead smells of rich mountain earth," she said, highlighting that the process is not just environmentally rewarding but also deeply relaxing. "Through our 'Spread composting fever' campaign, we are trying to get ordinary people inspired to start, so it's a case of ordinary people and extraordinary compost in limited space. It is a simple yet powerful step we can each take from our homes to fight climate change," she said.

An environmentalist said that the public would think composting is difficult, takes up a lot of space, and emits foul odour. The environmentalist observed that many people hesitate to adopt home composting, believing they lack the time or questioning its necessity since wet waste is collected by municipal services. "Composting is not difficult once you get it right, and that's just one or two cycles of maximum 2 months," the environmentalist said. The environmentalist explained that composting does not need much space as smaller models work perfectly well, with composting being possible in even a base area of 1 square foot. The environmentalist also highlighted that composting does not necessarily smell if done right. "Good compost does smell, but of fresh mountain earth," the environmentalist said. Additionally, the environmentalist said that composting does not require a lot of dedicated time as one simply has to put the wet waste into a composter instead of the bin. "It takes a moment extra to stir it regularly. Yes, you need maybe an hour every 2 months while harvesting.

# NH-275 expansion progresses rapidly after initial hurdles

After facing several challenges, the long-delayed construction of the four-lane highway and service road between Mysuru and Kushalnagar (NH-275) has finally gained momentum and is progressing rapidly. The total cost of constructing the 93 km stretch is estimated at ₹4,130 crore. Although the work was originally expected to begin in 2023 and be completed within the same year, delays in land acquisition, opposition from farmers regarding land surrender, and other factors prevented the physical commencement of the project. However, after overcoming these obstacles, the project is now steadily advancing. This highway will significantly improve connectivity, making it easier for Bengalureans to reach Madikeri.

Once completed, the road will provide significant convenience to travelers between Kushalnagar and Mysuru, facilitating smoother transportation. There is a public desire for the work to be completed quickly and made available for use. The highway connects two important tourist destinations, but the current road is narrow, and with increasing vehicle traffic, accidents, fatalities, and injuries have been regularly reported. It is hoped that the completion of the four-lane road will reduce accidents significantly. However, officials have stated that it will take considerable time for the project to be fully completed. The overall project requires 1,351.67 acres (547 hectares) of land to be acquired.

**This highway will significantly improve connectivity, making it easier for Bengalureans to reach Madikeri**

Renuka Prasad, a realtor, said, "The new highway will transform regional infrastructure by improving connectivity and reducing travel time. It will boost residential and commercial investments, increase land values, and lead to new townships, schools, hospitals, and business hubs — turning the corridor into a high-growth zone."

**-Prakash VL**

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# BENGALURU SPEAKS

and gets heard on this page

## STORY BEHIND THE PHOTO

### LOVELY BUT LETHAL

Our reader revisits a path reclaimed by nature post-Covid. "Among the wild overgrowth, I spotted a castor bean tree with photogenic pink seeds, beautiful, yet deadly," they write, reflecting on nature's deceptive charm and how even the most captivating flora can conceal danger beneath the surface.

The picture was clicked by reader **T Prakash**

If you have a picture and a story to share, send us the picture with your name and number at **mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com**

# Hebbal bus stand sinks again, commuters wading through neglect

**Flooded terminal sparks outrage as officials dodge blame, leaving daily commuters stranded in filth.**

Sridhar Vivan
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TWEETS @sridharvMirror

The Hebbal Bus Stand, a crucial transit point for thousands of daily commuters, was recently submerged under knee-deep water following heavy rains, once again exposing the neglected state of public infrastructure in the city. The flooding caused severe inconvenience for the public, many of whom rely solely on public transport for their daily commute. In fact, whenever it rains heavily, the Hebbal bus stand gets flooded.

Visuals shared on social media showed the entire bus terminal inundated, making it nearly impossible for commuters to board or disembark from buses safely. With platforms submerged and access routes waterlogged, travellers were forced to wade through dirty water, risking health hazards and potential injuries.

"This is the state of Hebbal Bus Stand after last evening's rain completely flooded and in a pathetic condition for public transport users," said Sanjeev Dyamannavar, a travel and urban expert. "Every time it rains, the bus stand gets submerged. Yet, the BBMP Commissioner, MLAs, and MPs continue to blame ordinary citizens for such issues. Do they have the courage to own up to their failures and take action by suspending the negligent officials responsible?"

Daily commuters expressed frustration over the recurring issue, saying the lack of permanent solutions despite repeated complaints highlights a systemic failure. "How are we supposed to reach work or hospitals on time when the infrastructure fails us every monsoon?" asked Ramesh Kumar, a regular passenger. Another commuter, Sangeeta, pointed out that the situation is especially dangerous for vulnerable sections of society. "This is not just an inconvenience; it's a complete failure of civic responsibility. Waterlogging is a danger to people's health and safety, especially children, the elderly, and those with disabilities."

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has been under fire for failing to implement effective drainage solutions in the area. Experts cite poor maintenance and unchecked encroachments around stormwater drains as major reasons for the flooding.

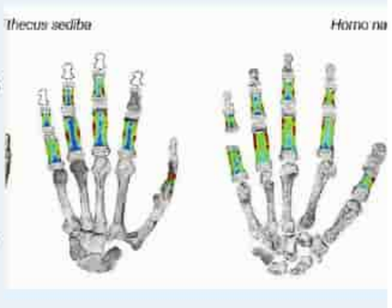
Activist and local resident Arun Shetty said, "BBMP officials and elected representatives continue to avoid accountability by blaming citizens. Will they admit this is their failure and act decisively? The officials responsible must be held accountable."

Despite repeated promises of action before every monsoon, commuters say the ground reality remains unchanged. "We hear assurances every year," said Ramesh. "But what we need is lasting action, not more empty words."

Netizens share flooded bus stand visuals, question civic accountability

## DID YOU KNOW?

Our hands can reveal a lot about how a person has lived – and that's true for early human ancestors, too. A new study shows that two early human species, Australopithecus sediba and Homo naledi, used their hands for both climbing and tool-making. These species lived around 2 million and 300,000 years ago, respectively, and their fossils were found in southern Africa. Scientists used 3D scanning to measure bone thickness in fossil fingers.




Bone responds to stress over time, so the thickness helped researchers understand how these hands were used. The results suggest these ancestors walked on two feet but also climbed trees or cliffs. Their hands were also capable of grasping and manipulating objects an important skill for making and using tools. "They were likely walking on two feet and using their hands to manipulate tools, but also spent time climbing," said co-author Samar Syeda of the American Museum of Natural History. Experts say the study highlights that hand evolution was not a straight progression from ape-like to human-like, but a complex mix of adaptations. — AP

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# PIB Fact-Check debunks fake claims of last rites of IAF Rafale pilot

**Claim: An old 2008 photo was falsely circulated as showing the last rites of a Rafale pilot killed in Operation Sindoor**

**Fact: PIB Fact-Check exposes a viral fake news claim about the last rites of an IAF Rafale pilot, clarifying the circulated image is from 2008 and unrelated to current events. The misinformation emerged amid heightened tensions after Operation Sindoor**

The fact-check unit of the Press Information Bureau (PIB) exposed another social media claim on Thursday, spreading a false narrative on Indian casualties in Operation Sindoor.

Several Pakistan-based accounts circulated images on social media claiming that they show the last rites of an Indian Air Force Rafale pilot who allegedly died on May 7.

However, the PIB fact-checking unit debunked this claim as "completely false" and clarified that the image is actually from 2008 and bears no relation to the claim. https://x.com/PIBFactCheck/status/1922685129417240787

"An old image is going viral on social media, with many Pakistan-based accounts claiming that it shows the last rites of a Rafale pilot of the #IndianAirForce who died on 7 May 2025. This claim is completely fake. The image is actually from 2008 and unrelated to the current context," PIB fact-checking unit wrote on X.

The PIB fact-check unit also attached a link to a CNN article on 'India's burning issue with emissions from Hindu funeral pyres' with the same image.

The image caption stated that the picture shows Hindus paying their respects at a mass cremation of 15 schoolgirls on the banks of the River Orsang in Bamroli, Gujarat, on April 16, 2008. India launched Operation Sindoor on May 7 as a decisive military response to the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack in which 26 people were killed. Indian Armed Forces targeted terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir, leading to the death of over 100 terrorists affiliated with terror outfits like the Jaish-e-Mohammed, Lashkar-e-Taiba and Hizbul Mujahideen.

India used Rafale jets armed with SCALP missiles and HAMMER bombs to target nine terror infrastructure sites in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir on May 7. The Indian Air Force completed the mission in just 23 minutes without any losses, exposing the weaknesses of Pakistan's air defence systems, the sources said.

After the attack, Pakistan retaliated with cross-border shelling across the Line of Control and Jammu and Kashmir as well as attempted drone attacks along the border regions, following which India launched a coordinated attack and damaged radar infrastructure, communication centres and airfields across 11 air bases in Pakistan. After this, on May 10, an understanding of the cessation of hostilities between India and Pakistan was announced. — ANI

**Old image falsely shared as IAF pilot's funeral**

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# Security personnel out, e-surveillance in

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

with a response indicating the ATM was balanced and functioning correctly.

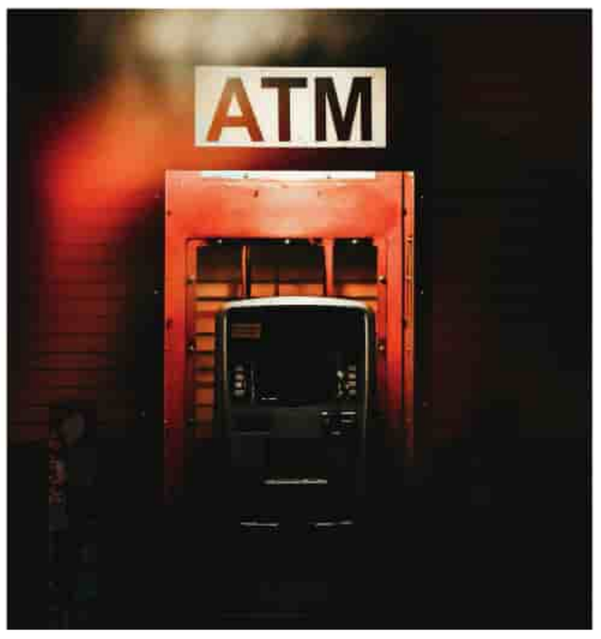
It was only after a subsequent in-person complaint that bank officials reviewed CCTV footage. The visuals from the evening of April 24 revealed suspicious activity. Two unidentified youths in black attire were seen placing a strip-like object on the cash dispensing area before exiting. Following several other transactions by different individuals, the same youths returned to retrieve the object, suggesting a possible skimming or cash-trapping technique.

The time frame in question, between 7.07 pm and 7.24 pm, was crucial, as it coincided with the withdrawal attempt. Officials have confirmed that no security personnel were present at the ATM during this period. Investigations are currently underway to identify the perpetrators and recover the missing funds.

## Are ATM security mechanisms effective?

This case has reignited concerns about the effectiveness of current ATM security mechanisms. Although most banks have shifted to electronic surveillance monitored from centralised command centres, the real-time response remains questionable. In this instance, despite the presence of an alert system designed to trigger breaches, no immediate action was taken, reportedly because the monitoring personnel were located remotely.

The incident also raises eyebrows over the removal of on-site security guards. In the wake of the infamous ATM machete attack several years ago, the then Police Commissioner had mandated that all ATMs be manned 24/7 and equipped with surveillance. However, citing high operational costs, several banks eventually phased out security personnel, relying solely on electronic systems.




This year alone, up to March, four skimming-related incidents have already been reported, marking a sharp rise from zero such cases recorded last year. Additionally, eight ATM fraud cases have been registered in the same period, indicating a troubling upward trend in cyber-enabled financial crimes.

As fraudsters adopt more advanced tactics, experts emphasise the need for a combined approach, integrating both human oversight and technological safeguards, to protect customer interests and uphold public confidence in banking systems.

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I, Shivalingappa Molagi s/o Sagareppa Molagi R/o No.9, 7th cross,Ullal main road,Muneshwaranagara, vishwavidyala, B'luru 560056 have changed my name Sagareppa Molagi Shivalingappa Affidavit Dt.16/05/2025 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, Doulat Zhi Khamar Ur Rehaman Khan R/o F16, Feroz Khan Compound, 1st Cross, Islampur, HAL, Bangalore-560017 have changed my minor daughter's name from Doulath Zhi Zaara Hayat Khan to Zaara Hayat Khan for all purposes.

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# 'It is very special...'

## RCB skipper Patidar on getting captaincy plaque from Virat Kohli

RCB's Phil Salt plays a shot during a practice session, at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium, on Friday

Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) captain Rajat Patidar recalled receiving the captaincy plaque from star batter Virat Kohli during the RCB Unbox event ahead of the 2025 Indian Premier League (IPL) season, saying that the moment will always be "special" for him.

Patidar was speaking on the latest episode of the RCB Podcast. Patidar said that after replacing Faf Du Plessis as captain, his father called him, and people congratulated him.

"Until then I was normal, I didn't feel much. My personality is such that I do not express much. I take everything in a normal way. But when I started noticing the things around me, I felt it was a big role and it is not easy to get it," Patidar said, according to a press note from the franchise.

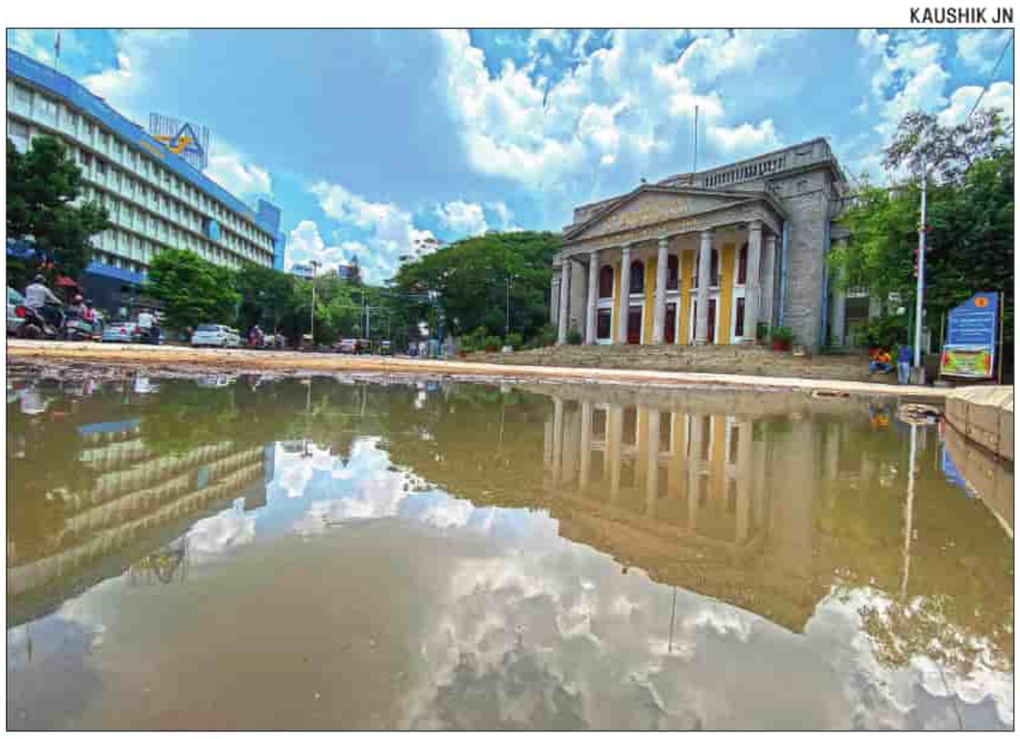
Patidar said he has always looked up to Viral.

"I always consider him my idol in terms of batting. Whenever he bats, I watch his batting and I learn from him. So, I feel that was a special moment, when he said...what he said about me, the way he introduced me to so many fans. It's very special for me. It always will be," he said.

"...how supportive he is, it's an opportunity for me. I am playing and leading the team, and he is with me, so I should learn from him. No one has the experience and ideas he has, in any role, whether it is batting, as an individual, and as a captain. So I feel it is a good opportunity to learn from him," he added. During the remaining season, Patidar will be aiming to overcome a lean run of form since the last three to four games. In 11 games and 10 innings, he has scored 239 runs at an average of 23.90, with a strike rate of 140.58. He has scored two half-centuries.

RCB is at the second spot with eight wins and three losses. They will play their next match against defending champions Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) at Bengaluru on Saturday, which will mark the resumption of the tournament. —ANI

KAUSHIK JN



### Rain and shine

Town Hall reflected in the waterlogged road, on Friday. Parts of Bengaluru witnessed heavy rain over the past two days

## Hebbal flyover will stay shut in the nights till May 20

The Bengaluru Traffic Police has issued a traffic advisory in light of upcoming girder installation work on the additional ramp of the Hebbal flyover. The Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) will undertake the work from May 17 to May 20, between 12 am and 3 am each day.

As part of the project to construct new ramps connecting KR Pura to Mehkri Circle, seven steel girders, each measuring 33.5 metre, will be installed over the railway tracks near the flyover.

To facilitate the work, vehicular movement on the Hebbal flyover from Esteem Mall to Baptist Hospital will be completely restricted during the work hours. The restriction applies to all types of vehicles.

### Alternative route

Vehicles travelling from the Kempegowda International Airport towards Mehkri Circle will have to take the service road at Esteem Mall, turn right at Hebbal Circle onto the Outer Ring Road, proceed towards Tumkur Road, take a left at Kuvempu Circle, and reach Mehkri Circle via New BEL Road. —BMB

## Prior authorisation must to invoke Prevention of Corruption Act

The High Court has declared unlawful a strategy employed by the police wherein they avoided seeking prior permission to investigate alleged misappropriation by not initially invoking the Prevention of Corruption (PC) Act, but later included it in the chargesheet after obtaining prosecution sanction post-investigation.

The court emphasised that circumventing Section 17A of the PC Act, which requires prior authorisation from competent authorities to investigate public servants, is not permissible.

Justice M Nagaprasanna issued the order nullifying the criminal case against DS Veeraiah, former chairman of DDUTTL and ex-MLC, whilst accepting his petition. The police registered an FIR against "unknown persons" on September 23, 2023, citing only IPC sections 409, 420, 405 and related offences, based on the incumbent MD's complaint about 47.1 crore misappropriation in the public sector company.

The court observed that police deliberately filed the FIR against "unknown persons" despite knowing the responsible parties, as the complaint specifically mentioned Mr. Veeraiah and then MD S. Shankarappa's decisions regarding contract awards at DDUTTL board meetings.

The court stated this was a calculated move to bypass Section 17A requirements, noting the FIR's exclusion of PC Act provisions.

The court determined that IPC Section 409 and PC Act Section 13(1)(a) essentially address the same offence of criminal misappropriation by public servants. It was noted that police obtained Section 17A permission only for the former MD during investigation, excluding the petitioner.

The police initially charged the former MD under both IPC and PC Act, but filed charges against the petitioner only under IPC. Subsequently, they obtained Section 19 sanction and added PC Act Section 13 charges without prior Section 17A investigation permission. The court concluded that police deliberately presented only IPC Sections 409 and 420 charges, which mirror PC Act Section 13, to avoid the Section 17A prior approval requirement. —BMB

**HEALTH TIP:** Start with 10 to 15 minutes of daily meditation or mindfulness exercises, focusing on deep, steady breathing

Meditation can lower cortisol levels, improve emotional regulation, and enhance focus

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# GENES OR ENVIRONMENT?

## How your genes interact with your environment changes your disease risk

Sitting in my doctor's examination room, I was surprised when she told me, "Genetics don't really matter for chronic disease." Rather, she continued, "A person's lifestyle, what they eat, and how much they exercise, determine whether they get heart disease."

As a researcher who studies the genetics of disease, I don't fully disagree – lifestyle factors play a large role in determining who gets a disease and who doesn't. But they are far from the entire story. Since scientists mapped out the human genome in 2003, researchers have learned that genetics also play a large role in a person's disease risk.

Studies that focus on estimating disease heritability – that is, how much genetic differences explain differences in disease risk – usually attribute a substantial fraction of disease variation to genetics. Mutations across the entire genome seem to play a role in diseases such as Type 2 diabetes, which is about 17% heritable, and schizophrenia, which is about 80% heritable. In contrast to diseases such as Tay-Sachs or cystic fibrosis, where mutations in a single gene cause a disease, chronic diseases tend to be polygenic, meaning they're influenced by multiple mutations at many genes across the whole genome.

Every complex disease has both genetic and environmental risk factors. Most researchers study these factors separately because of technical challenges and a lack of large, uniform datasets. Although some have devised techniques to overcome these challenges, they haven't yet been applied to a comprehensive set of diseases and environmental exposures.

In our recently published research, my colleague Alkes Price and I developed tools to leverage newly available datasets to quantify the joint effects that genetic and environmental risk factors have on the biology underlying disease.

### Aspirin, genetics and colon cancer

To illustrate the effect gene-environment interactions have on disease, let's consider the example of aspirin use and colon cancer.

In 2001, researchers at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center were studying how regularly taking aspirin decreased the risk of colon cancer. They wondered whether genetic mutations that slowed down how quickly the body broke down aspirin – meaning aspirin levels in the body would stay high longer – might increase the drug's protective effect against colon cancer. They were right: Only patients with slow aspirin metabolism had a decreased risk of colon cancer, indicating that the effectiveness of a drug can depend on a person's genetics.

This raises the question of how genetics and different combinations of environmental exposures, such as the medications a patient is taking, can affect a person's disease risk and how effective a treatment will be for them. How many cases of genetic variations directly influencing a drug's effectiveness are there?

The gene-environment interaction of colon cancer and aspirin is unusual. It involves a mutation at a single location in the genome that has a big effect on colon cancer risk. The past 25 years of human genetics have shown researchers that these sorts of large-effect mutations are rare.

For example, an analysis found that the median effect of a genetic variant on height is only 0.14 millimeters. Instead, there are usually hundreds of variations that each have small but cumulative effects on a person's disease risk, making them hard to find.

**How could researchers detect these small gene-environment interactions across hundreds of spots in the genome?**

### Polygenic gene-environment interactions

We started by looking for cases where genetic variants across the genome showed different effects on a person's biology in different environments. Rather than trying to detect the small effects of each genetic variant one at a time, we aggregated data across the entire genome to turn these small individual effects into a large, genome-wide effect.

Using data from the UK Biobank – a large database containing genetic and health data from about 500,000 people – we estimated the influence of millions of genetic variants on 33 complex traits and diseases, such as height and asthma. We grouped people based on environmental exposures such as air pollution, cigarette smoking and dietary patterns. Finally, we developed statistical tests to study how the effects of genetics on disease risk and biomarker levels varied with these exposures.

### We found three types of gene-environment interactions.

First, we found 19 pairs of complex traits and environmental exposures that are influenced by genetic variants across the genome. For example, the effect of genetics on white blood cell levels in the body differed between smokers and nonsmokers. When we compared the effects of genetic mutations between the two groups, the strength of gene-environment interaction suggested that smoking changes the way genetics influence white blood cell counts.

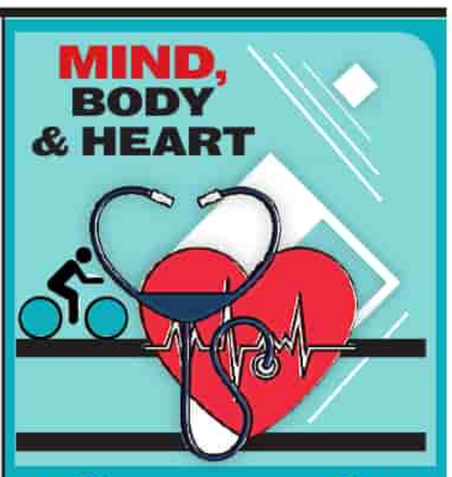
Second, we looked for cases where the heritability of a trait varies depending on the environment. In other words, rather than some genetic variants having different effects in different environments, all of them are made stronger in some environments. For example, we found that the heritability of body mass index – the ratio of weight to height – increased by 5% for the most active people. This means genetics plays a larger role in BMI the more active you are. We found 28 such trait-environment pairs, including HDL cholesterol levels and alcohol consumption, as well as neuroticism and self-reported sleeplessness.

Third, we looked for a type of gene-environment interaction called proportional or joint amplification. Here, genetic effects grow with increased environmental exposures, and vice versa. This results in a relatively equal balance of genetic and environmental effects on a trait. For example, as self-reported time spent watching television increased, both genetic and environmental variance increased for a person's waist-to-hip ratio. This likely reflects the influence of other behaviors related to time spent watching television, such as decreased physical exercise. We found 15 such trait-environment pairs, including lung capacity and smoking, and glucose levels and alcohol consumption.

We also looked for cases where biological sex, instead of environmental exposures, influenced interactions with genes. Previous work had shown evidence of these gene-by-sex interactions, and we found additional examples of the effects of biological sex on all three types of gene-environment interactions. For example, we found that neuroticism had genetic effects that varied across sex.

Finally, we also found that multiple types of gene-environment interactions can affect the same trait. For example, the effects of genetics on systolic blood pressure varied by sex, indicating that some genetic variants have different effects in men and women.

*(Arun Durvasula, University of Southern California, The Conversation)*




## All you need to know about...

Simple Everyday Habits for Better Health

**1. Eat in Silence for Better Digestion**

In today's fast-paced world, meals are often rushed or eaten in front of screens. However, eating in silence—without television, smartphones, or loud conversations—can significantly improve digestion. When we eat mindfully, our brain better coordinates the digestive process, leading to improved nutrient absorption and reduced bloating. It also helps us tune in to our body's hunger and fullness signals, which can prevent overeating and promote a healthier relationship with food.

**2. Morning Sunlight Boosts Serotonin**

While most people know about vitamin D from sunlight, few realize that early morning light can also naturally boost serotonin—the "feel-good" hormone. Just 10 to 15 minutes of sun exposure between 7 a.m. and 9 a.m. can elevate your mood, enhance focus, and even help regulate your body's internal clock. This simple habit can be especially helpful for those dealing with mild depression, low energy, or poor sleep.

**3. Breathe Through Your Nose, Not Your Mouth**

It may sound trivial, but how you breathe matters more than you think. Nasal breathing warms, filters, and humidifies the air before it reaches your lungs, making it more efficient than mouth breathing. It also increases nitric oxide production, which helps expand blood vessels, improve oxygen circulation, and even support brain function. Training yourself to breathe through your nose—especially during sleep and exercise—can reduce anxiety, improve athletic performance, and support overall well-being.

**—Femina**

**Work partner**
Ana de Armas confirms multiple projects with Tom Cruise amid romance speculation

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# Sparkle on

## How Bollywood actresses dominate fashion news using jewellery

Jewellery is no longer simply a Bollywood leading lady's accessory; it is the focal point of their look, making headlines. Statement pieces, maximalist jewellery, and blended traditional and modern styles characterise the jewellery options of top actresses. Whether posing on the red carpet or making public appearances, these celebrities employ jewellery to convey individuality, lead trends, and make their looks iconic. Their evocative, bold decisions guarantee that jewellery remains at the centre of Bollywood's constantly changing fashion story.

—ETimes

### Priyanka Chopra

Priyanka Chopra's jewelry look is about international glamour with an Indian twist. She comfortably combines bold chokers, diamond necklaces, and show-stopping cocktail rings with both sarees and Western gowns. Priyanka's picks demonstrate versatility; she can sport a royal emerald set for a traditional function or glittering diamond drops for a Hollywood premiere. Her self-assurance in combining traditional pieces with contemporary silhouettes guarantees her jewellery never goes unnoticed, and she is a red-carpet fixture and international fashion icon.

### Deepika Padukone

Deepika Padukone is renowned for her maximalist style, embracing dramatic, attention-grabbing jewellery. She frequently selects multi-stranded necklaces, large chandbalis, and elaborate chokers to wear with both traditional and modern dresses. Deepika's style is uncompromising in its scale-she never plays down her jewellery, typically opting for colored gemstones and elaborate designs. This bold use of statement jewellery solidifies her role as a trendsetter not afraid to place jewellery at the forefront of her ensemble.

### Aishwarya Rai Bachchan

Aishwarya Rai Bachchan embodies ageless glamour with her jewelry selection. She tends to go for traditional, royal pieces like layered Kundan necklaces, pearl chokers, and intricately designed jhumkas. Aishwarya's ensembles are grounded in tradition, with a liking for heritage-patterned designs that go well with her sarees and lehengas. Her jewelry is always carefully coordinated, bringing a whiff of royalty to each look and solidifying her position as a style icon who transcends the past and present.

### Sonam Kapoor

Sonam Kapoor is renowned for her daring fashion sense, regularly making bold, cutting-edge jewellery statements that turn heads. She is attracted to stacked necklaces, large earrings, and three-dimensional rings, combining traditional Kundan and Polki with modern designs. Sonam's ensembles are carefully put together, and jewellery is frequently the center of attention-whether it's a show-stopping choker or a layered group of thick bracelets. Her knack for combining vintage and new pieces makes her a fashion influencer, and fans are encouraged to use statement jewellery as an expression of themselves.

### Kareena Kapoor Khan

Kareena Kapoor Khan's jewellery style is a combination of timeless sophistication and contemporary edge. She can often be spotted in streamlined diamond necklaces with emerald detail, sophisticated gold chokers, and bold silver bracelets. Kareena's style is understated yet powerful-she allows her jewellery to make her outfit shine without overwhelming it. From the red carpet to a top-event appearance, her well-thought-out ensemble exudes a hint of opulence and assurance, making her a regular news-giver among Bollywood fashion circles.

# Complete confusion

Dee is Vinay Vasudev's maiden film as a director in Sandalwood. He has chosen a good subject to prove his mettle as a director as well as an actor but unfortunately, he fails in both the departments. From the beginning of the movie, the plot is confusing with too many dream sequences. The screenplay is also not up to the mark.

The movie is about Deepak (Vinay Vasudev) and Divya (Disha Ramesh) who decide to embark on wildlife photography after their marriage. Deepak's father Narayan (Bala Rajawadi), a retired forest officer, advises him to take the help of Karthik (Nagendra Urs), a forest range officer. The newly married couple goes to Sirsi forest. Divya falls down into a valley from a viewpoint during a photo session. Deepak also jumps into the valley searching for Divya. You have to watch the movie to know what happens to Deepak and Divya.

**DEE**

**2.0** RATING | ★★☆☆☆

- **DIRECTOR** Vinay Vasudev
- **ACTORS** Vinay Vasudev, Disha Ramesh, Nagendra Urs, Bala Rajawadi, and Harini Shreekanth
- **Duration** 148 minutes
- **Certification** U/A

The director has also used CG animation for a few minutes and it adds value to the movie.

Vinay Vasudev, who plays the lead too, needs to hone his acting skills. Disha Ramesh has acted well. Her dialogue delivery and gestures deserve appreciation. Urs, who played the forest officer, fails to impress. Bala Rajawadi and Harini Sreekanth provided good support.

Alan Bharat has done a good job behind the camera, especially in capturing the greenery of Sirsi forest. UM Steven Sathish has scored lilting music.

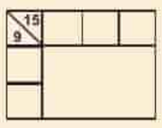
The movie does not have any comedy as well to tickle audiences' funny bones.

If you have no other way to spend your leisure time, you can watch this film.

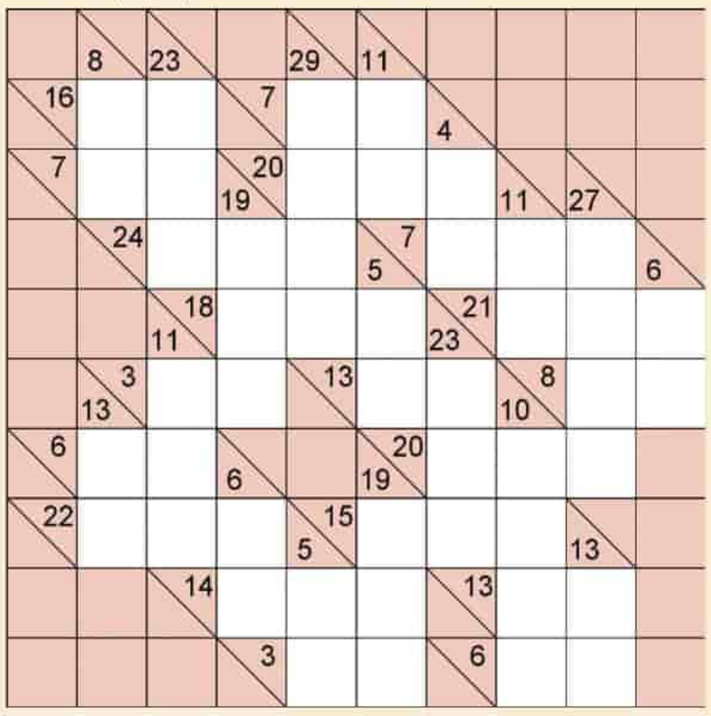
—Y Maheswara Reddy

## Kakuro

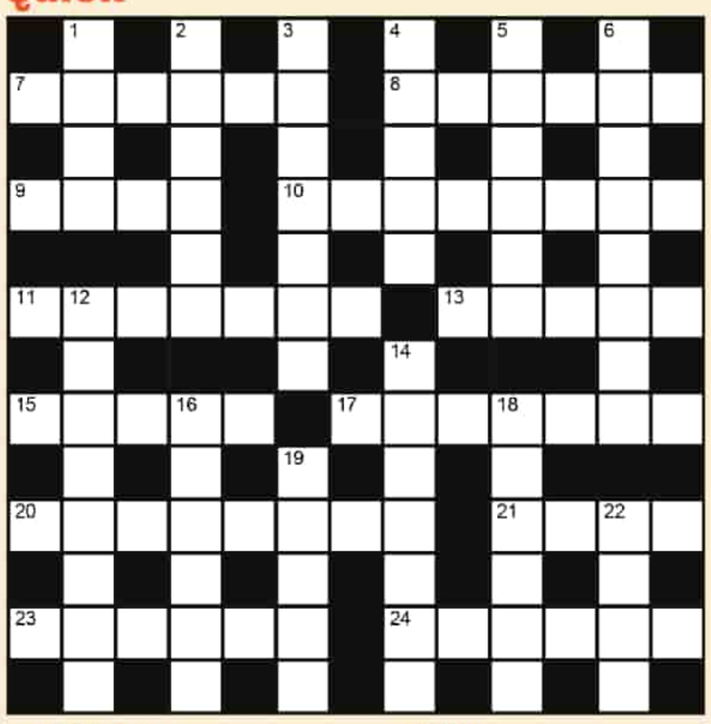
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



## Quick



**ACROSS**

7 Norwegian explorer (6)
8 Vinoo and Ashok of Indian cricket (6)
9 Garden denizen (4)
10 Small piece (8)
11 Mixed or agitated (7)
13 Male relative (5)
15 Distributed cards (5)
17 Small naval vessel (7)
20 Defeat thoroughly (8)
21 Limited period of time (4)
23 Enticing (6)
24 Mum or dad? (6)

**DOWN**

1 Couple (4)
2 Weather-map line (6)
3 Brandy glass (7)
4 ___ Hills: Bangalore's highest point (5)
5 __ __ show : a solo effort ? (3-3)
6 Metal glove (8)
12 Netherlands' famous city? (3,5)
14 Maybe (7)
16 ___ gold : petroleum? (6)
18 Goes in (6)
19 Slight colour or tint (5)
22 Ms. Mukherjee of Bollywood (4)

## Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

**Today's CLUE: Q EQUALS Y**

ULROVTVE QJA GJ, GJ UZOL RII QJAE FZWLO.

## Linemaro

Did you survive Avada Kedavra?
Because you are drop dead gorgeous

## Mindchow

He who waits to do a great deal of good at once, will never do anything

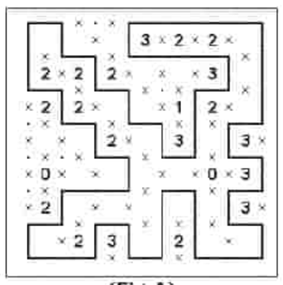
## Joke of the day

A liberal is a man too broad minded to take his own side in a quarrel

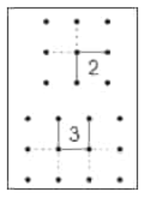
## Loop

### Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

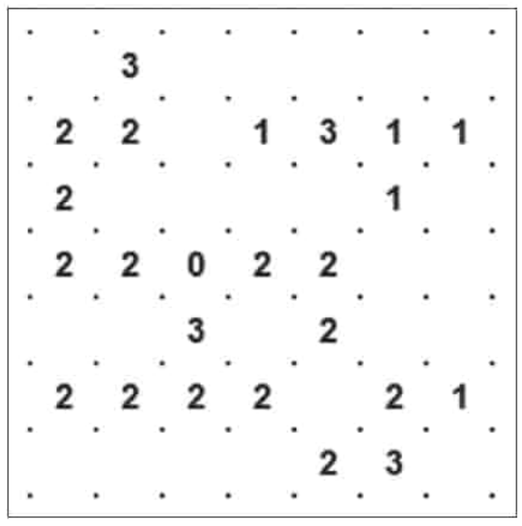


(Fig B) Not Allowed

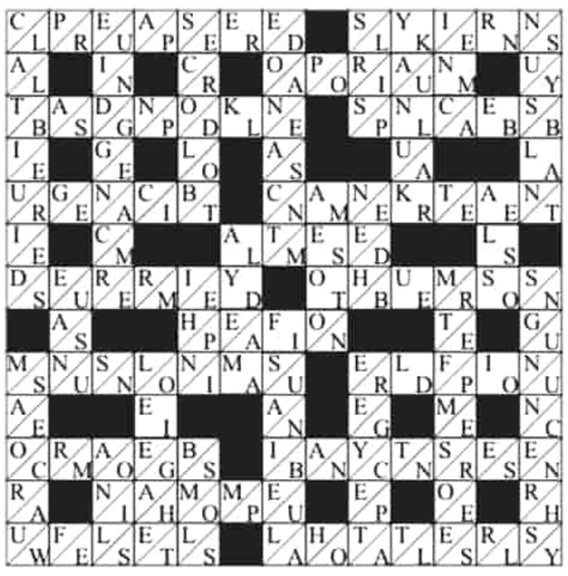
### How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



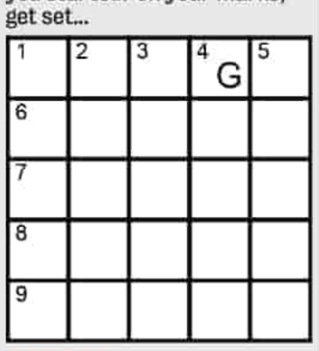
## Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

## Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



**ACROSS**

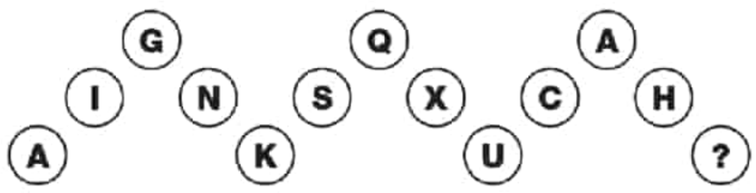
1 Gels C; 6 Iller;
7 Bum ie; 8 OK OBE (1-4);
9 Owns D

**DOWN**

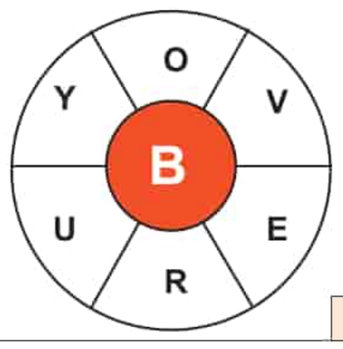
1 Cider; 2 Il Mob;
3 Bowel; 4 No lug;
5 K sees

## Mensapuzzle

Which letter completes the puzzle?




## Bull's eye




How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

**07** Average; **08** Good; **10** Outstanding

## SudokuChallenge

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 9 | | | 7 | | 4 | | 5 | |
| | 5 | | | 2 | | | 7 | 8 |
| 4 | 6 | | | | | | | |
| 5 | | 3 | | 7 | 8 | 1 | | |
| | | | | | | | | |
| | | 6 | 2 | 4 | | 9 | | 7 |
| | | | | | | | 9 | 1 |
| 6 | 7 | | | 8 | | | 4 | |
| | 8 | | 4 | | 2 | | | 3 |

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

## Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

**Easy** = 7
2 4 6 7

**Medium** = 17
1 2 4 6

**Hard** = 6
1 9 9 6

## Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

**Differences:** 1. Fence is longer. 2. Purse is lower. 3. Mouth is open. 4. Light is smaller. 5. Chimney is shorter. 6. Man's finger is moved.

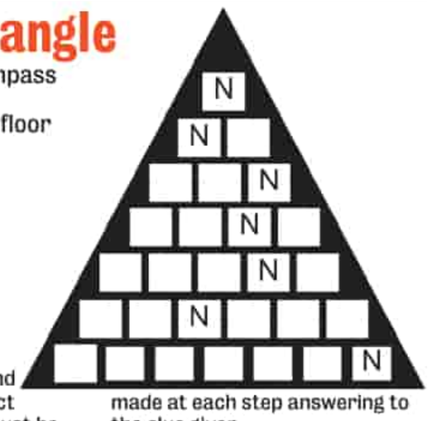
## Riddler

Each pair of definitions is for two words, where the second word is the first word with a letter deleted. The length of the first word in each pair is provided, along with the position of the deleted letter to obtain the second word.

1) to detest (6 letters) & (delete 2nd letter) a wood shaping machine
2) stress (6 letters) & (delete 3rd letter) blemish

## Alpha triangle

1 North on the compass
2 Neon symbol
3 Big score on the floor
4 Departed
5 Interlace
6 Cold season
7 Penned




Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

# COMICS

## Popeye

DO YOU HAVE A HEADACHE NOW?
YAS, I HAS! YOU BONKED ME WIT' A HAMMER!
WONDERFUL! YOU CAN TEST MY SUPER HEADACHE PILL!
GULP!
IN A FEW MOMENTS THE PRODUCT OF O.G. WOTASNOZZLE'S GIANT BRAIN WILL MAKE YOUR HEADACHE DISAPPEAR!
8-20
BOB ALDENPORT
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## Bizarrotrip

## Diamond Lil

## Hart of the city

YOU OKAY, HEART? YOU LOOK LIKE THIS IS YOUR FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL.
WOULD YOU BELIEVE ME IF I TOLD YOU THAT HEART AND I SWITCHED BODIES, AND I'M ACTUALLY HER MOM, ADDY?
YEAH, TOTALLY! IT'S LIKE THE 1972 BOOK "FREAKY FRIDAY."
I HOPE YOU TURN BACK SOON!
THANKS, CHARLOTTE.
HEART OF THE CITY © 2025 AHDEBMS MCNEEL
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## Crankshaft

After you build the ark...
Load the first, second and third chairs for every instrument except the pan flute!
NO PAN FLUTE?
Not one of my better ideas.
BAND ROOM
BATIUK & DAVIS

## Mutts

# WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

**Aries** Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today may bring positive developments in your professional life. You could be highly engaged with work, which might lead to mental fatigue. This may cause delays in attending family or social gatherings. However, your spouse will likely offer support, helping you maintain domestic harmony. Lovebirds might take meaningful steps toward marriage. Job seekers could receive good news about an opportunity—possibly through a friend.

**Taurus** Apr 21 – May 20
Blessed by the Moon, happiness and optimism are likely to fill your day. You may be busy at work and focused on expanding your professional network. With elders' blessings, implementing new plans may pave the way for long-term success. A visit to a close relative or a friendly gathering may also be on the agenda.

**Gemini** May 21 – Jun 21
You may feel emotionally sensitive and physically drained today. Health issues could emerge, so avoid driving in haste. Be cautious of hidden enemies or opponents, as there could be elements of conspiracy. Lovebirds should remain calm and steer clear of arguments over minor issues.

**Cancer** Jun 22 – July 23
Self-reflection will help you identify and correct past mistakes, boosting your confidence at work. Disputes in partnerships may be resolved, and warmth in your marital relationship could increase. Students might make decisive moves in their careers, and singles may unexpectedly meet a suitable match.

**Leo** Jul 24 – Aug 23
The Moon's blessings bring joy and progress. Projects that were stalled may finally gain momentum. Your bond with your spouse strengthens, and your job performance improves. Singles might meet their soulmate, and couples may take steps toward formalizing their relationship. Promotions or job opportunities are also possible.

**Virgo** Aug 24 – Sep 23
With the support of elders, you'll feel confident and efficient. You are likely to implement innovative ideas at work or in business. Smart investments may yield quick returns. Rivals will be under control. Helping someone in need may enhance your reputation. You might also bring home something artistic or creative.

**Libra** Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today may bring a blend of experiences. You might focus on your children's academic matters, possibly involving a short trip. Romantic moments are likely. Couples could receive good news about childbirth. Family or friend outings may occur. Those employed may consider pursuing higher education to advance their skills.

**Scorpio** Oct 23 – Nov 22
Frustration and impatience could affect your focus today. Concentrating on your goals might be difficult. Postpone investments in fixed assets, and pay close attention to your parents' health and well-being.

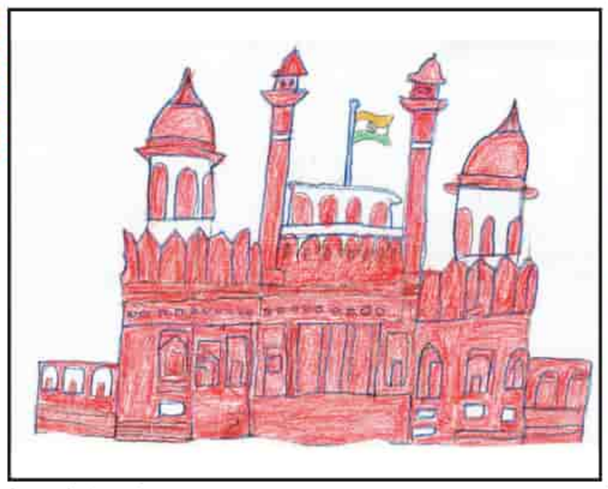
**Sagittarius** Nov 23 – Dec 22
You're filled with energy and courage. You may purchase key items for your home or office. Your inner drive could help you complete projects ahead of schedule. Disputes with siblings may resolve, and a short business trip could enhance your professional network.

**Capricorn** Dec 23 – Jan 20
The day looks favorable. You might gain better control over expenses, improving your savings. Domestic activities may keep you busy—possibly involving home decor or office renovations. A cheerful family atmosphere prevails. Lovebirds may discuss marriage, and singles could meet someone special. Children are expected to do well.

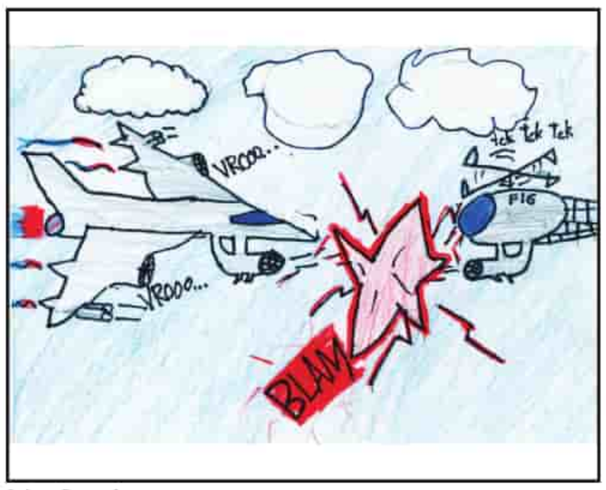
**Aquarius** Jan 21 – Feb 19
A surge of positive energy boosts your confidence today. You may discover new paths to success in your career. Family businesses may flourish. Chronic health issues could show signs of improvement. You might even plan for an overseas journey.

**Pisces** Feb 20 – Mar 20
Emotional instability and low energy may trouble you today. Health issues might arise, so avoid risky activities like fast driving or adventure sports. Stay alert for hidden enemies or conspiracies. To maintain peace, avoid engaging in unnecessary arguments.

## KIDZONE



Sarvesh, Bengaluru




Arjun, Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

# SOLUTIONS

**SOLVE IN 1M**
= (√3(3+2+1))^2
= (6√3)^2
= 6^2 x (√3)^2
= 36 x 3 = 108

**BULL'S EYE**
bevy, bore, buoy, bury, buyer, byre, obey, OVERBUY, robe, ruby

**STRIKE OUT**

**FAST FIVE**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| C | L | E | G | S |
| R | I | L | L | E |
| I | M | B | U | E |
| E | B | O | O | K |
| D | O | W | N | S |

**RIDDLER**
1) loathe & lathe,
2) strain & stain

**QUOTE UNCODE**
Whatever you do, do with all your might.

**QUICK**

**MENSA PUZZLE**
E. Starting on the left, and moving to the right, letters are written in alphabetical order, moving forward 8 places, then back 2, then forward 7 places and back 3. Repeat this sequence to the end of the line.

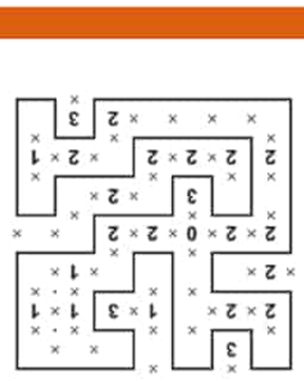
**SUDOKU**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 9 | 2 | 8 | 7 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 6 |
| 3 | 5 | 1 | 9 | 2 | 6 | 4 | 7 | 8 |
| 4 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 9 |
| 5 | 9 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 1 | 2 | 4 |
| 7 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 9 | 6 | 8 | 5 |
| 8 | 1 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 9 | 3 | 7 |
| 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 1 |
| 6 | 7 | 9 | 3 | 8 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 2 |
| 1 | 8 | 5 | 4 | 9 | 2 | 7 | 6 | 3 |

**ALPHA TRIANGLE**
N, Ne, Ten, Went, Twine, Winter, Written.

**GO FIGURE**
Easy
2 - 6 + 4 + 7 = 7
Medium
6 x 2 + 1 + 4 = 17
Hard
6 x 9 \ 9 x 1 = 6

**LOOP**



**KAKURO**

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₹39 000*

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| Edge over Competition | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Features | | Hyundai Grand i10 NIOS | Maruti Suzuki Swift | Maruti Suzuki IGNIS |
| | | Asta | Zxi | Alpha |
| New Age Design | Sharkfin Antenna | Yes | No | No |
| | Roof Rails | Yes | No | Yes |
| | Unique C Pillar Branding | Yes | No | No |
| Intelligent Technology | Auto Headlamp | Yes | Yes | No |
| | Emergency Stop Signal | Yes | No | No |
| | 20.25 cm (8") Touch Screen Infotainment with Smartphone Connectivity | Yes | 17.78 Cm | 17.78 Cm |
| | Wireless Charger | Yes | Yes | No |
| | Cruise Control | Yes | Yes | No |
| | Eco Coating Technology | Yes | No | No |
| Outstanding Safety | Side & Curtain Airbag | Yes | Yes | Only Dual Front |
| | TPMS highline | Yes | No | No |
| Splendid Interiors | Rear AC Vents | Yes | Yes | No |
| | Rear Power Outlet | Yes | No | No |
| | Cooled Glovebox | Yes | No | No |
| | Leather wrapped steering wheel | Yes | No | No |
| Peace of Mind | 3 Yr/100,000 km Standard Warranty | Yes | 2 Yrs/40k Kms | 2 Yrs/40k Kms |
| | Free Road Side Assistance | 3 Years | 2 Years | 2 Years |

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